5.	Sewa-II	120	Stage-II activities are in progress after CPI Bapproved the stage-II cost estimates.
6.	Pakal Dul	1000	Stage-II activities are in progress after CPIB approved the stage-II cost estimates.
7.	Bursar	1020	CEA was to examine viability taking into consideration additional generation in the downstream projects on completion of this project. CEA has re-assessed the completion of this project. CEA has re-assessed the project's viability and has recommended the State-II cost estimates by CPIB. CPIB meeting to be convened.

Obstructions in the Power Sector Reforms

1580. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether regulation of the power sector is being hampered and stalled by the Central and State Governments power utilities challenging the various orders of the Regulator, an expert body set up to harmonize conflicting and competing equities;

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating to minimize the emerging conflicting situation hastening the power sector reforms; and

(c) whether any amendments thereby are being considered in the CERC Act with a view to removing the legal lacunae preventing timely & effective regulation of the power sector and fixation of power tariff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Section 16 and Section 27 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 provide for an appeal to the High Court by any person aggrieved by any decision or order of the CERC and SERC respectively. Some power utilities have gone in appeal to the concerned High Courts against the order of CERC/SERC.

(b) and (c) In the Electricity Bill, 2001, which is already under consideration of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy, there is a provision for constitution of an Appellate Tribunal for Electricity to hear

appeals against the orders of CERC and SERC for speedy disposal of such matters.

Rural Electrification Development Fund

1581. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a separate Rural Electrification Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the fund has been utilized during this year so far and the plan further utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There is no separate Rural Electrification Development Fund for rural electrification programme. Rural Electrification Schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Government/State Electricity Boards out of State Plan funds. However, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is being provided by the Central Government to the State for rural electrification programme.

During 2002-03, the following funds have been allocated as ACA to carry out the rural electrification works;

(i) Under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) Rs. 600 crores.

(ii) Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojnas (PMGY) - Rs. 2747 crores for all the six components of PMGY including Rural Electrification as Additional Central Assistance. The State Governments have to make interse allocation of funds for rural electrification depending upon their priorities.

(iii) An outlay of Rs. 164 crores has been provided under a new Interest Subsidy Scheme called Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP).

(iv) Funds under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are also released to the States through NABARD for rural electrification works.